

monroe
NR Pa 2
B63

Bollinger Mill

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
LIBRARY

STATE HISTORIC SITE

APR 4 1991

64-270-4

BOLLINGER MILL STATE HISTORIC SITE

Grain has been milled at Bollinger Mill State Historic Site for more than 180 years. For much of this time, the mill has served as a social and economic focal point for the surrounding area in Cape Girardeau County.

Bollinger Mill is a four-story stone and brick structure located on the Whitewater River in Burfordville. Sharing this scenic setting with the mill is the Burfordville Covered Bridge, one of the four covered bridges remaining in Missouri. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Mill

Today's mill is the third one built on this site. The first two were built by George Frederick Bollinger, who came to this area in 1797 from North Carolina. He received a 640-acre land grant from Don Louis Lorimier, the Spanish commandant at Cape Girardeau. In return for the land, Bollinger agreed to develop the land and to bring more settlers from the east. He returned to North Carolina and, in 1800, brought 20 families (including six of his brothers and their families) back to settle along the banks of the Whitewater River. Bollinger immediately began work on the first mill and dam, both of which were constructed of wood. After the mill began operating, Bollinger gained a wide reputation for his product and he grew wealthy at the same time he provided an essential service for the developing settlements of the area.

He also became involved in the political arena. Bollinger was a member of the first territorial assembly, which met in 1812 in St. Louis. Then, when Missouri became a state, Bollinger became a senator. He was one of the original senators to meet at the First State Capitol in St. Charles and he was elected to serve as president pro tem of the Senate in 1828. Bollinger also had a hand in national politics when he was a member of the electoral college that elected President Andrew Jackson to his second term (1832-1837).

In 1825 Bollinger rebuilt the lower part of the mill and the dam with limestone that was quarried a short distance away and hauled by teams of

oxen to the site. The dam and stone portion of today's mill are remnants of this 1825 structure.

Bollinger's daughter, Sarah Daugherty, inherited the mill and property after her father's death in 1842. She and her two sons remained as owners and operators of the mill through the Civil War. Because of the Daugherty's Confederate sympathies, Union troops burned the mill's wooden upper structure during the war to prevent the passing of flour and meal into Confederate hands.

In 1866, Sarah Daugherty sold the mill and 640 acres to Solomon R. Burford, the man for whom Burfordville is named, so she could pay off debts incurred by her two sons. Burford then rebuilt the burnt upper structure of the mill with locally made brick; the resulting brick and stone structure is the one standing today. It was also probably at this time that the method of powering the mill was changed from water wheel to turbine.

From 1895 to 1953, the mill was part of the Cape County Milling Co., a very successful company that improved the mill's output through the use of newer methods and machinery. The mill, known as Mill C (Mills A and B were in Jackson), was outfitted with a roller plant for producing flour, and a new and larger turbine was installed to power the machinery; stones still were used, however, to grind the corn into meal.

In spite of the improvements and greater efficiency, business started to fall off in the early 1940s. Eventually the mill was used primarily for storing grain and mixing livestock feed.

The Paul Vandivort family, descendants of the Bollinger family, bought the mill in 1953. Family members were interested in turning the mill into a museum and, in 1961, Paul Vandivort's children donated the mill and surrounding land to the Cape Girardeau County Historical Society, which, in its turn, donated the land to the state in 1967. Considerable restoration has been done to both the mill and the machinery. Today's visitors can again see corn meal ground between the old buhr stones with water power - just as it has been for more than 180 years.

The Bridge

Burfordville Covered Bridge, built by Joseph Lansmon, was started in 1858. The Civil War, however, delayed construction and the bridge was not completed until 1868. It has undergone many repairs through the years with the last major renovation completed in 1950 by the state highway department.

The bridge is a 140-foot span with Howe trusses for support. Yellow poplar, cut along the banks of the Whitewater River, is the major building material and some of the 8x12 timbers are incredibly long. Building covered bridges became very popular in the early- to mid-1800s because the

Nick Decker photo



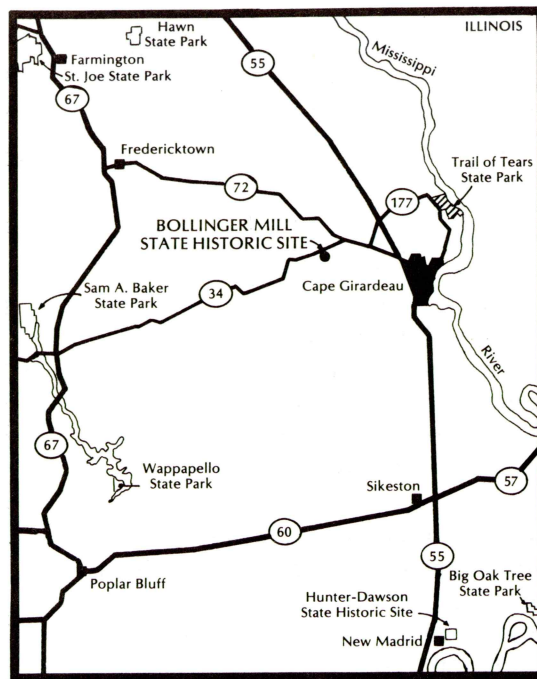
Bollinger Mill and Covered Bridge



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Tours of this state historic site are available for nominal fees. To obtain more information of tours or to make group reservations, call the site administrator at (314) 243-4591.

Bollinger Mill State Historic Site
P.O. Box 248
Burfordville, MO 63739



structural timbers would last much longer if protected from the elements by a roof and siding.

WHAT TO SEE

The Mill

Guided tours of the mill are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. A demonstration of corn milling is included in the tours, each of which lasts approximately 45 minutes. An exhibit area is located on the second floor.

The Bridge

Along with the mill, Burfordville Covered Bridge provides an excellent setting for artists and photographers.

The best light for photographers is morning light.

The Park

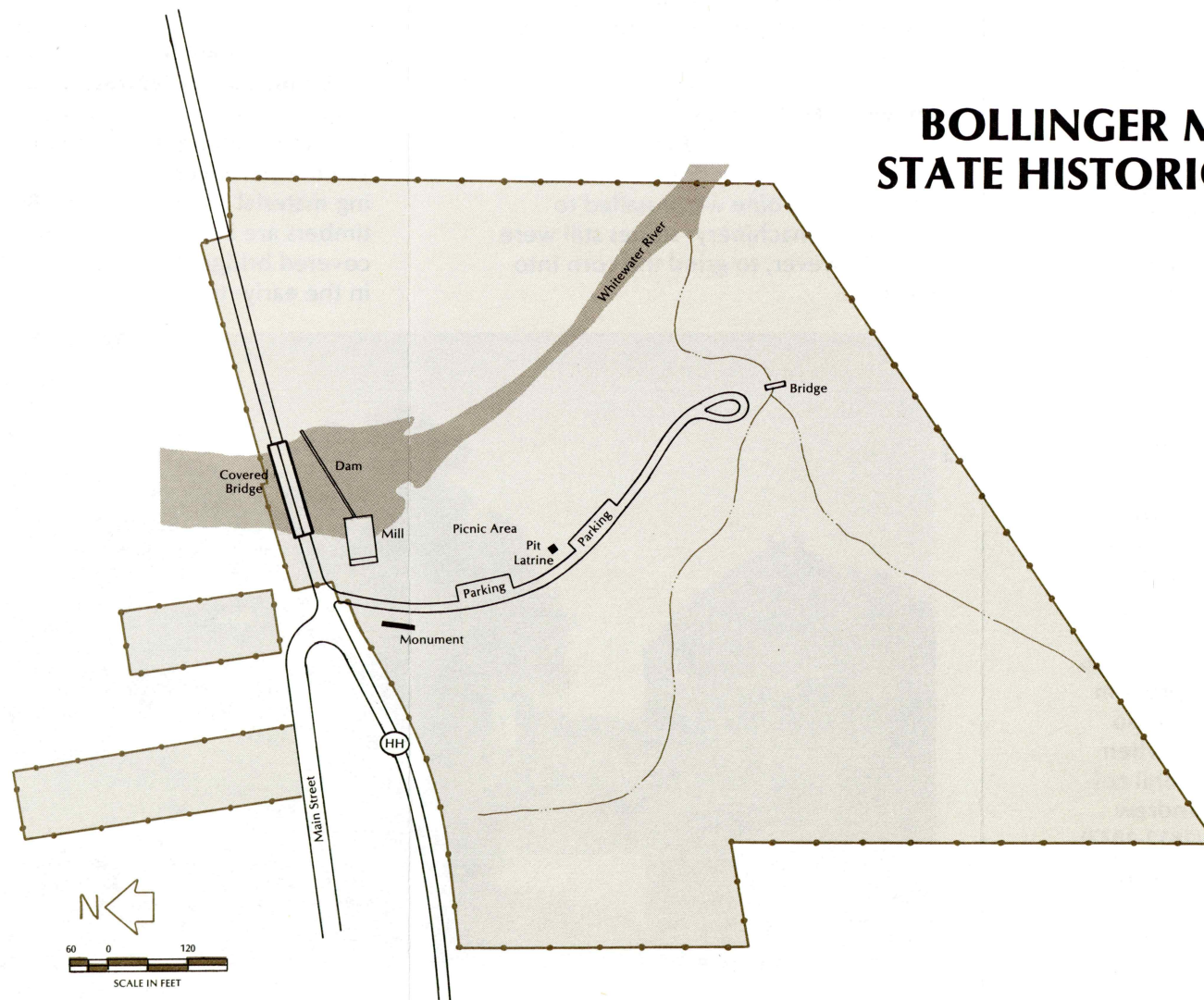
There are 14 picnic sites available for day use as well as a short hiking trail that leads to the Bollinger family cemetery.

PLACES TO SEE NEARBY

Trail of Tears State Park is located approximately 25 miles east of Bollinger Mill. This 3,268-acre park, which borders the Mississippi River, features one of the principal river crossings of the Cherokee nation on its forced march from the southern Appalachians to Oklahoma. Trail of Tears State Park has an interpretive center, a 20-acre lake, several picnic sites, and hiking and backpacking trails. There also are 35 campsites in the park.

Other state parks located in south-east Missouri include Hawn, Weingarten; Sam A. Baker, Patterson; Lake Wappapello, Williamsville; Johnson's Shut-Ins, Middlebrook; Elephant Rocks, Bellevue; and Big Oak Tree, East Prairie. Other state historic sites in the area are Hunter-Dawson, New Madrid, and Fort Davidson, Ironton. The Glenn House and Reynolds House in Cape Girardeau, and the Oliver House in Jackson are other historical points of interest.

BOLLINGER MILL STATE HISTORIC SITE



Please help recycle this brochure - share it with a friend.